THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir. Guidelines for admission to engineering and medical colleges are not prescribed by the UGC.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Drop- out of girl students

3026. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the current school drop-out rates of girl students, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the plans with which Government would address this issue;

(c) whether Government are considering to incorporate vocational training courses as part of the course curriculum for reducing the school drop-out rate; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Drop-out rates of girl students during 2003-04 at all India level and in Andhra Pradesh are given as under:

Drop-out rates of girl students during 2003-04 (in %age)

	Classes I-V	Classes I-VIII	Classes I-X
All India	28.6	52.9	64.9
Andhra Pradesh	42.8	61.8	68.5

(b) A multi-pronged approach has been adopted under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for reducing drop-out rates. One set of interventions relates to strengthening of primary and upper primary schools and improving the quality of education through improvement in school infrastructure, recruitment of additional teachers, annual school grants, regular training of teachers, introduction of teaching practices that make classrooms more joyful and attractive, regular academic support to teacher etc. On the other hand, several interventions aim at improving the demand for schooling through community mobilization, special interventions for enrolment and retention of vulnerable groups of children including girls and children of weaker sections. Measures are also being undertaken to strengthen the accountability of the schools system towards parents and community.

The Mid-Day Meals Schemes that provides a cooked meal to all children of primary schools and alternative education centres has also helped in checking drop-outs.

(c) and (d) National Curriculum Framework (NCF)-2005 recommends institutionalization of work-centred education as an integral part of school curriculum from pre-primary to the +2 stage with a view to making productive work a pedagogic medium for knowledge acquisition, developing values and multiple skill formation. It is not however immediately clear whether vocationalisation will have a direct bearing on the drop-out rates.

Private universities in the country

†3027. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private universities in each State in the country as on the 28th February, 2006;

(b) the State-wise names of recognized universities, out of the same;

(c) the criteria for granting recognition;

(d) the names of the private universities wherein proper inspections were made to grant continuity to the recognition along with the dates of the inspections; and

(e) the names of the universities in Chhattisgarh that have complied and not complied with all the prescribed conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (e) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the following 8 private universities, established by the respective State Legislatures, are recognized in terms of Section 2(f) of the UGC Act:—

1. Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information and Communication Technology, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
2. Nirma University of Science and Techology, Sarkhej, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
3. Jaypee University of Information Technology, Solan District, Himachal Pradesh.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.